



Unit .36

Session .03

The Redeemer Is Worshiped

Scripture



Revelation 5:1-14

1 Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals. **2** I also saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” **3** But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or even to look in it. **4** I wept and wept because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or even to look in it. **5** Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Look, the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered so that he is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.” **6** Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth. **7** He went and took the scroll out of the right hand of the one seated on the throne. **8** When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each

one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints. **9** And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation. **10** You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth. **11** Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels around the throne, and also of the living creatures and of the elders. Their number was countless thousands, plus thousands of thousands. **12** They said with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing! **13** I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say, Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever! **14** The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Intro Options



Remember, this icon means there is a Leader Pack item that goes with the lesson. See Leader Pack for additional instructions.

Main Point:
Jesus is worthy of worship because of His sacrifice.

Option 1

Break your students into pairs. Each pair should have something to write on and a writing utensil. Read off the following descriptors and have the pairs write one name down for each:

- Someone worthy of respect
- Someone worthy of admiration
- Someone worthy of adoration
- Someone worthy of reverence or veneration
- Someone worthy of worship

Make five columns on the whiteboard, one for each of the descriptor listed above. Ask students to share the names they wrote in each. Ideally, as you go across the columns, the people become bigger, more virtuous, and more praiseworthy, culminating in Jesus as the sole name worthy of worship.

What makes someone worthy of respect? Of admiration? Of adoration? Why do the requirements get more stringent as you go higher up the descriptors? In today's session, we'll see that only one name, Jesus Christ, is worthy of worship, but we'll see many reasons why He is so worthy.

Option 2

Ask students to think of two kinds of victories: victories that bring people together, and victories that divide people. For instance, a city's athletic team winning a championship usually brings the people of that city together. However, political victories can tear people apart. If you're in a large group, brainstorm as many victories in each category as you can, writing those victories on either side of a whiteboard or large piece of paper. If the students came up with their lists in small groups or individually, have them share their lists and write their answers on each side of the board.

Once you've compiled your list, look for patterns to either side. What tends to bring people together? What tends to bring them apart?

Chances are good that unifying victories are those which cause people to rally around a central person or thing that is worthy of praise. In today's session, we'll see that Jesus is our victorious Redeemer; He is worthy of all praise, and His victory brings all His people together in admiration of Him.

TEACHING PLAN

Read Revelation 5:1-7.



John saw the throne of God and a scroll in God's hand. This scroll contained the future of the world. How would the world arrive at its God-appointed destiny? John wept because it appeared that no one would be able bring God's plan to completion; for none were worthy to open the scroll. John's hope rested in God's promises, which momentarily seemed as if they would not be fulfilled. No one could be found who was worthy to break the seals, open the scroll, and bring about God's promised future for His people and the world. 

▪ When have you witnessed or been in a situation that felt hopeless?

The world John lived in seemed hopeless. By the time He wrote the Book of Revelation, all the other apostles had been martyred. The first century church must have felt powerless against the might of Rome. Suffering persecution on the island of Patmos, John needed a reminder of the hope He had in God. But his heavenly vision wasn't going as he anticipated. His hope was in heaven, but it seemed no one there was worthy to fulfill God's promises and the hopes of God's people. But all the promises of God find their "yes" in Jesus (2 Cor. 1:20). Jesus was worthy to take the future God had planned for the world into His own hands and begin to bring it to completion.

▪ How does Jesus' victory give us hope even through the hardest of times?

John could wipe away his tears and rejoice because Jesus had conquered. Jesus' victory serves as a constant reminder that evil will not win. The spotless Lamb who was slaughtered now stands at the throne with all authority and strength. The destiny of the world is in the hands of the One who died for the world. So, we can press on with hope, knowing that His victory has secured our own victory.

Read Revelation 5:8-10.



Jesus alone has died for our sins, conquered death, redeemed the world, and assumed all authority. The appropriate response to Jesus is worship. Nothing less will do. The person and work of Jesus demand a response, and the most fitting response is to worship Him.

▪ How would you define worship?

Worship is our response to Jesus' worth. It begins in the heart—a sense of awe and wonder, gratitude and joy. But when the wonder and joy cannot be contained any longer, worship manifests itself in our posture, in our prayer, and in our praise.

COMMENTARY

Main Point:
**Jesus is worthy of
worship because
of His sacrifice.**

Revelation 5:1-7

The scroll in this text contains God's future plans for the universe, particularly the judgment of the wicked and the rescue of His people. As the rest of the Book of Revelation would reveal, human history is marching towards a terrible day of judgment. And yet, it is also marching towards a beautiful day of rescue and renewal. As the search for someone who can open the scrolls is coming up empty in the text, one has to wonder "Why doesn't the Father just open it Himself?" Surely, He is worthy. And of course, He is. But He doesn't want to. The future He wants for the world is not merely a day of judgment, but a day of redemption. Such a day would not be possible without the Lamb who was slain. So, God waits for the Lamb. John Piper reflected on this idea: "God is a God of love because he will not open the seals of history without the hands of a Savior."¹

"He takes it from the right hand of the Father, and the Father does not resist him, the four living creatures do not object, and the twenty-four elders do not stand in his way...Is there any way that John could have more clearly communicated that Jesus is very God of very God, light from light, God from God, of the same essence as the Father? Even if John had simply stated, 'Jesus is God,' it would not have portrayed the deity of Christ as clearly as this episode."²

"The symbolism of the 'Lion that is from the tribe of Judah' comes from Genesis 49:9-10. The lion served as the symbol of Israel's messianic tribe. The 'Root of David' (cf. Is. 11:1-10) reminds us that Jesus is both the descendent of David's royal line and the source of it."³

1. John Piper, "Christ: The Lion and the Lamb," *Desiring God*, March 23, 1986, <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/christ-the-lion-and-the-lamb>.

2. James Hamilton Jr., *Revelation: The Spirit Speaks to the Churches*, p. 157.

3. Edward Hindson, *The Book of Revelation: Unlocking the Future*, p. 64-65.



99 Essential Doctrines (p. 96, DDG)

90. Worship

While many reduce worship to an event or the singing of worship songs, worship is first and foremost something of the heart and extends to all areas of life. The aim and focus of worship is God, giving Him the exact due of praise and adoration that He deserves. Worship should be carried out not only at a personal level within a Christian's life but also in joining with other Christians in the corporate act of worship and stewarding our gifts for the glory of God. Corporate worship serves to edify and strengthen other Christians, but it also serves as a witness to non-believers of the greatness of God.

TEACHING PLAN

▪ How do posture, prayer, and praise express worship?

The creatures and elders fell down before the Lamb (v. 8). When we encounter the exalted Christ, it is fitting to humble ourselves before Him, to take a posture of surrender and reverence. Just as our body language expresses our attitude or engagement in social settings, our body language says something spiritually as well. Prayer is worship, too. When we pray, we are expressing faith in God's power and love. We are saying we believe He cares and has both the authority and ability to do something about it. Praise also expresses worship. Those in the heavenly vision sang a song about what Jesus had done to redeem. When you believe the gospel, you can't help but praise Jesus for it.

Read Revelation 5:11-14.



Worship began at the very throne of God in this scene, but here it has stretched to the farthest corners of the universe (v. 13). Worship is our destiny and the destiny of all creation. As the apostle Paul wrote, "At the name of Jesus every knee will bow—in heaven and on earth and under the earth—and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord" (Phil. 2:10-11). The Lamb will receive the honor He is due.

▪ How can we worship the Lamb with our lifestyle?

Worship isn't something we merely do at church. It is more than singing on Sunday. Worship should be a way of life, so that "God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything" (1 Pet. 4:11). From our attitude to our work ethic, God can be worshiped in every area of life. While that clarification is needed, this passage demonstrates the obvious importance of corporate worship. When God's people gather together, Jesus ought to be praised and worshiped.

▪ How should this heavenly worship affect or correct our own corporate worship?

Notice that everyone in this scene praises Jesus openly, freely, and without hesitation. Every person is a worshiper, and no one is standing on the sidelines in this scene. That's how it should be in church. No one should have an apathetic posture, or be looking at their phone, or mumbling the words. The Lamb is worthy of your praise!

4. D. A. Carson, *Worship by the Book* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002).

5. Matt Boswell, *The Gospel Project, Summer 2018, Session 12* (Nashville, TN: Lifeway Christian Resources 2018)

6. John Piper, "Christ Has Purchased Global Praise: The Blood, the Beast, and the Boast of Race," *Desiring God*, May 8, 2019, <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/christ-has-purchased-global-praise>.

7. Augustine in William C. Weinrich, *Revelation* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2005).

8. James Hamilton Jr., *Revelation: The Spirit Speaks to the Churches*, p. 159.

COMMENTARY

Main Point:
**Jesus is worthy of
worship because
of His sacrifice.**

Revelation 5:8-10

“Worship is the proper response of all moral, sentient beings to God, ascribing all honor and worth to their Creator-God precisely because he is worthy, delightfully so.”⁴

“Our worship should express more of what God has done for us, and less of what we will do for Him.”⁵

“This is what this people were purchased for: to belong to God as his treasured possession — a kingdom under his care, a priesthood in his service, and magistrates sharing his reign.”⁶

Revelation 5:11-14

“Who is this, both lamb and lion? He endured death as a lamb; he devoured it as a lion. Who is this, both lamb and lion? Gentle and strong, lovable and terrifying, innocent and mighty, silent when he was being judged, roaring when he comes to judge.”⁷

“They are proclaiming the worth of the Lamb, and they are saying he is worthy to receive anything that could be given to him in his honor. He will abuse no power. He will misuse no wealth. He will do good with might. He will respond rightly to and is worthy of honor and glory and blessing.”⁸

Activity

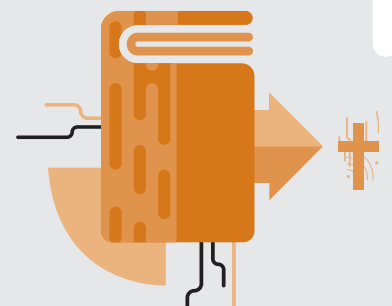
Have your students come up with a list of different settings (times & places). Split them into small groups and randomly assign each group two things: first, one of the settings from your list; second, one of the three points from today’s session (Jesus as a worthy conqueror, a worthy redeemer, or a worthy king). They must now put on a skit showing what worship would look like in the specific setting they got; moreover, that worship should, if possible, focus on the characteristic from the session they were assigned.

You may wish to discuss with them how worship does not always look like engaging in musical praise (though it sometimes will!). Worship is a revering Jesus for who He is and all He does; thus, worship may look different in different situations, or even if we focus on different aspects of Jesus’ worth (e.g., worshipping Him as redeemer vs. worshipping Him as conqueror).

Talk about how their lives should look this week if we really live lives of worship under our conquering redeemer and king. What should we look like in our homes? Among our families? With our friends? On our sports team? In our online gaming?

(p. 97, DDG) Christ Connection

When John saw that no one was worthy to open the scroll or break its seals, he wept. Then, John saw the slaughtered Lamb on the throne—Jesus the Son of God who was slain for our redemption. Jesus is the One worthy of all praise and honor and blessing.





THE REDEEMER IS WORSHIPED

Jesus is worthy of worship because of His sacrifice.

JESUS CONNECTION



When John saw that no one was worthy to open the scroll or break its seals, he wept. Then, John saw the slaughtered Lamb on the throne—Jesus, the Son of God, was slain for our sins. His life was the price needed to bring us back to God. Jesus is the One worthy of all praise and honor and blessing.



LIFEWISE QUALITY

HUMILITY – Refusing to think of myself as more important than I am.



HEAD

Why isn't anyone but Jesus worthy to open the scroll in John's vision?

How did everyone respond to Jesus when He took the scroll?



HEART

In John's vision, we see Jesus as our sinless sacrifice and reigning King. How should we see ourselves in light of who He is? What is the most appropriate response to His glory?

Everyone in Heaven recognized Jesus' unequaled worth. Instead of looking at one another, their attention was all on Him. How can comparing ourselves with Jesus, rather than others, help us to have a humble attitude?



HANDS

Do you find it easy to willingly humble yourself, or do you make every effort to build up yourself and your reputation? Think about the things you post about yourself on social media or share with others in person. Do you try to prompt others to praise you or sway others to think more highly of you? Is it difficult for you when another student wins a game in class or gets the credit for something? These are some ways our pride can appear. Ask God to help you see pride in your actions and to help you choose to live humbly, trusting Him to take care of you and the results. Choose to do one or more of the following this week:

- ◆ Post something on social media that doesn't prompt praise or attention toward you
- ◆ Congratulate the student or team that wins a game
- ◆ Tell a fellow student when you see that they've done something well